

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

claims 1, 6 and 9-13 have been amended; and

claims 2 and 8 have been cancelled.

Listing of Claims:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A probiotic composition comprising: a Lactic Acid Bacteria (LAB) suspended in an edible oil wherein said edible oil has prebiotic properties, and wherein said edible oil is selected from the group consisting of fish oil, rice-bran oil, soy oil and combinations thereof and wherein said LAB is selected from the group consisting of Lactobacillus acidophilus, L. amylovorus, L. brevis, L. bulgaricus, L. casei spp. casei, L. casei spp. rhamnosus, L. crispatus, L. delbrueckii ssp. lactis, L. fermentum, L. helveticus, L. paracasei, L. pentosus, L. plantarum, L. reuteri, L. sake, Bifidobacterium animalis, B. bifidum, B. breve, B. infantis, B. longum, Pediococcus acidilactici, Propionibacterium acidipropionici, P. freudenreichii, P. jensenii, P. theonii, Streptococcus cremoris, S. lactis, S. thermophilus and combinations thereof.
2. (CANCELLED)
3. (CANCELLED)
4. (ORIGINAL) The probiotic composition according to claim 1 wherein said LAB is L. casei strain KE01 having ATCC number PTA 3945.
5. (CANCELLED)
6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A probiotic composition comprising Lactobacillus casei strain KE01 ~~ATCC number~~ having ATCC number PTA 3945 suspended in an edible oil wherein said edible oil has prebiotic properties and is selected from the group consisting of fish oil, olive oil, rice-bran oil, soy oil and combinations thereof.
7. (CANCELLED)

8. (CANCELED)
9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The probiotic composition of according to claim 6 ~~claim 8~~ wherein said edible oil is fish oil.
10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The probiotic composition of according to claim 6 ~~claim 8~~ wherein said edible oil is olive oil.
11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The probiotic composition of according to claim 6 ~~claim 8~~ wherein said edible oil is rice-bran oil.
12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The probiotic composition of according to claim 6 ~~claim 8~~ wherein said edible oil is soy oil.
13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The probiotic composition of according to claim 6 ~~any one of claims 8 through 12~~ further comprising a stabilizing ingredient selected from the group consisting of soybean oligosaccharides, fructooligosaccharides, galactooligosaccharides, galactosyl lactose and palatinose, lactulose, lactitol, xylitol, sorbitol, mannitol, trehalose, glucose, sucrose, fructose, maltose, milk, milk powders, whey, whey protein concentrates, casein, casein hydrolysates, lactoferrin, lactoperoxidase, lactoglobulins, glycomacropeptides, lacto-saccharides, and lacto-lipids.
14. - 22. (CANCELLED)
23. (WITHDRAWN) A pair of KE01 specific primers wherein said KE01 specific primers consists of positive and negative strand and said positive primer is SEQ ID NO 1 and said negative strand in SEQ ID NO 2.